

## Mary Pickford Talks

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### Beware of the Dog!

**T**HE other afternoon, while we were out on location, a large sign placed on the stone wall in clearing a beautiful country home read, "Beware of the dog—he bites." Probably some forebodings heightened great Danes—of the actors remarked. "I'm glad they warned us—I might have gone too near."

And just because there was that sign on the wall I was beside myself with curiosity to see this animal whose ferocity was advertised. My curiosity did not keep me in an uneasy state very long, for the great gate swing open and a bumblebee rolled out.

In the car was an elegantly-gowned woman who might have been a grandmother were it not for the maternal art of today's beauty culturist, whose picture is, "We sell eternal youth." And there, on each side of her, were two pompos and arrogant looking puppies who were so aristocratic and well-bred they could no longer seem even themselves in wag their tails.

As the bumblebee passed us, I caught a glimpse of the woman raising one of the dogs to her face and kissing it. She snatched up the silicon ear of the dog, I repeated to myself with a laugh that, and how often we confess ourselves, when we are admiring others.

"A dog's a dog for it that," and is there anything in all this world except a little baby that makes you live it more than a worn, fat, unattractive-legged pup?"

I am so fond of animals that in nearly all my pictures, since little kitten, dog or goat will stay into the scene, and I am not alone in this taste. It is interesting to observe the audience when animals appear upon the screen—universally they are beloved.

I have even heard a rhinoceros or a griffon called "cute," which always reminds me of the story of the country woman who saw, for the first time, a hippopotamus. Turning to her daughter, she said, with a doubting look in her eyes: "My Lor, Samantha! Ain't he pretty?"

Lottie, Jack and I were so fond of animals that a day "Beware of the Dog" never had any effect upon us. Over the fence we would climb and make friends with any dangerous beast who lurked in the shadows of the house. Children who love animals generally find these ferocious dogs to be nothing but rough-and-tumble old puppies, after all, with a fierce angle to their jaw, but a kindly look in their eyes.

Sometimes, though the nice, amiable-looking canines turn out to be the people we meet—surface angels and heart-devils.

Lately I have received so many letters from animal lovers asking me to write something against vivisection. The letters are strong, tense and dramatic, and I read them. I am quite overwhelmed by their viewpoint, the thought that the little animals I love so are tortured, sometimes wantonly, breaks my heart. I have spoken of this to many physicians who argue in favor of experimenting on animals, and they insist that the child may be spared.

But in this they all agree—that only scientists and successors who understand what they are doing should be permitted a free hand in such operations which cause terrible racing suffering to animals.

I cannot forget the horror of visiting a public school where the children were allowed to dissect a living frog. When I turned away shuddering, the teacher faced me with this accusing question:

You eat meat and you have nothing to say of the merciless killing of birds and calves, the little creatures you pretend to love so much?"

(D) Couples of seventeen should take their walks in the afternoon.

(E) Is it proper to receive pictures from boy or girl friends?

(F) Is it all right to go to the show with boyfriends?

(G) It is proper to go to the show and walk home afterward if the girl's home is about a mile out in the country?

(H) Couples of seventeen should take their walks in the afternoon.

(I) No, it is not proper. Girls cheapen their reputations by doing things like that.

(J) It is all right to receive them, but one should be careful about distributing her pictures promiscuously.

(K) A girl of seventeen is too young to be engaged with boys.

(L) A girl's mother should decide whether or not she agrees to have her daughter go to the theater and walk home under the conditions you mention.

If the girl is old enough to go with boys and the boy is the right kind, I see nothing wrong in their walking home.

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